

IMDb Message Boards Announcement

The IMDb message boards were disabled on February 20, 2017. This included the Private Message system. IMDb is passionately committed to providing innovative ways for our hundreds of millions of users to engage and communicate with one another. We will continue to enhance our current offerings and launch new features in 2017 and beyond that will help our customers communicate and express themselves in meaningful ways while leveraging emerging technologies and opportunities. For more information, see the [FAQ](#) here.

IMDb Off-Shoots

How to fail as an admin -- of
internet messageboards

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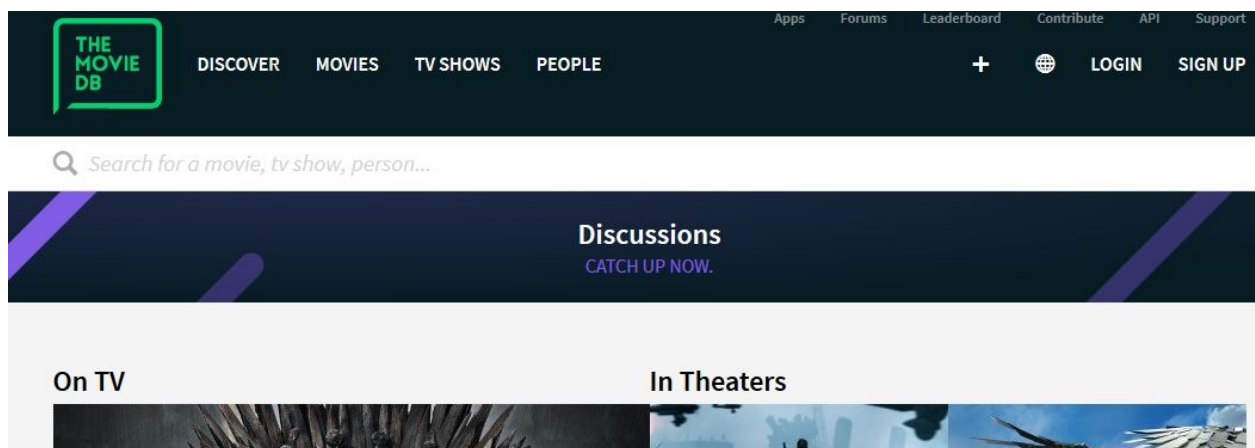
This short e-book looks at the endeavors of some failures of admins who sabotaged their own business by administrating their messageboards terribly. Most of them are offshoots of IMDb Messageboards. It includes Patrick Clinger, owner of Proboards. Words used here will be not professional.

The internet messageboards are dying. Free Speech is now banned everywhere. Websites are removing comment sections from their content. IMDb Messageboards were just one of the free speech places online removed from history. I won't go into details why IMDb messageboards were important. 20 years of information gathered deleted because movie execs didn't like truth spoken against their shitty movies, directors, actors, cinematographers, etc.

We begin with

TMDb.org

<https://www.themoviedb.org/>



Owner of TMDb.org is Travis Bell.



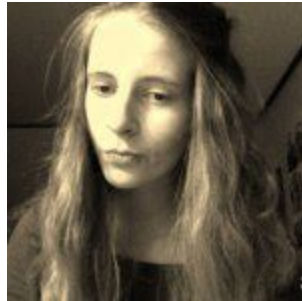
This guy is the closest competitor to IMDb.com but is like 10,000 alexa rankings down from IMDb.



What did he do wrong?

It was going fine. His site was flourishing. His messageboards had started gaining followers. What he did wrong? He appoints his gf - 'Marr' - as the global moderator of the entire messageboard. Why did he do that? He was a lonely virginal loser and fell

in love with her, so she seduced him into modding her. Now she operates the site according to her desires, and has particular likes and dislikes. She deletes threads against her beloved shows, actors, directors, movies, etc.

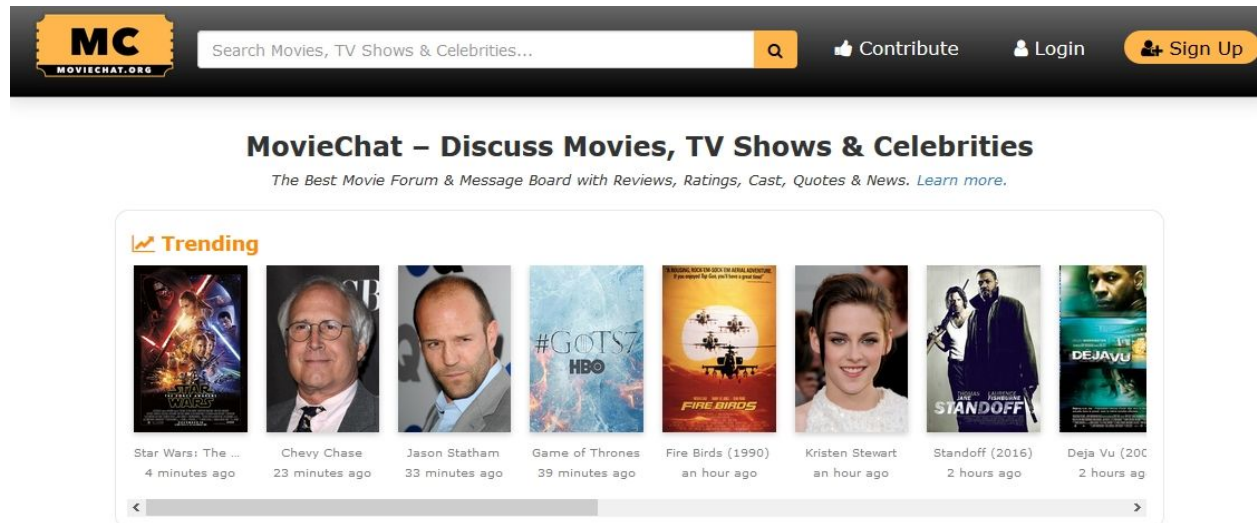


She is also against free speech. His site will always be ranked low because of this.

Solution: Implement automated content moderation as in imdb messageboards

Moviechat.org

<https://moviechat.org/>



Owner of Moviechat is Jim Smith. This guy is a ruthless businessman and will do anything to make his business successful. He deliberately sabotages other competitors. He steals their ideas. He is quick and most of the things he has done to his website are great.

Problem?

Terrible group of people controlling the site. Terrible human moderation. Only a select group of people are allowed to post there. A few geeky nerds control everything, and they are the mods! They won't allow new users in. They won't let anyone post without saying how those new users are trolls. The moderators are against free speech. They play favors to the 'established members'. Pretty much like any human moderated website, right? This site will die.

Solution: Automated moderation like IMDb messageboards (RIP)

IMDb2 Proboards




<http://imdb2.freeforums.net/>

IMDB v2.0
Internet Media Discussion Boards

Home Help Search Welcome Guest. Please [Login](#) or [Register](#).





IMDB v2.0 > Home > Recent Posts Recent Threads

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IMDB v2.0		Threads	Posts	Last Post
	Board			
	IMDB v2.0 Information Announcements regarding updates, changes and special things for the Message Boards.	11	600	ToS, Community Guidelines, and Language by Admin Jul 16, 2017 at 8:14am
	Tech Support IMDB v2.0 tech support. How may we help you?	170	1,290	Why the large drop in the total number of members? by Admin yesterday at 6:40am
	Suggestion Box Want a specific forum? Don't like the theme? Have an idea to make this a better site? Post your suggestions here.	264	2,330	I WANT SIG PICS! by Admin Jul 26, 2017 at 2:11pm

Owner of IMDb2 proboards is 'John Carter' of Mars. Whoever this person is, this person is a massive stalking troll with an ego the size of Donald Trump.

This place has like 500 regular users, and most of them live under his/her tyranny.

 Threads and Posts Total Threads: 44,631 Total Posts: 694,228 Last Updated: My friend's theory about Rey by Jedan Archer (a few seconds ago) Recent Threads - Recent Posts - RSS Feed	 Members Total Members: 1,630 Newest Member: threadkiller Most Users Online: 297 (Feb 20, 2017 at 7:20am) View today's birthdays
 Users Online 0 Staff, 36 Members, 98 Guests. yamahatrimple , mcufan , nogbad , Marv , knowlto , llanwydd , zehgerman , Flynn , darkramj , Trident , captainbryce , SteveBannon , TheKoolguy456789 , maninasuitcase , mauricio , flash321 , NJtoTX , brandomarlon2003 , MarilynLuvsTigger , ArArArchStanton , miike80 , hoskotafe3 , ck100 , sdm3 , Neo , Raimo47 , cooly44 , seahawksraawk00 , theoncomingstorm , mickeeteenze , Stammerhead , swimm , TutuAnimationPrincess , Winter_King , faustus5 , Arion10	
 Users Online in the Last 24 Hours 1 Staff, 487 Members, 1,595 Guests. runie , tampalm , Xeliou66 , OldAussie , saoradh , staggerstag , damienofthewest , CoolJGS , rkounion , RiP , IMDb , gogoschka1 , Gubbio , moviebuffbrad , Karl Aksel , dividavi , Edward-Elizabeth-Hitler , Kojirō Sasaki , jakesully , Carl LaFong , FilmFlaneur , Jerk , jeffersoncody , xcalat3 , Reggie_Stration , kevin , robin , bluerisk , piccoloking , Pistachio , mattgarth , socialboy83 , dough , Popeye Jimmy Doyle , mecano04 , Salzmank , phludowin , islandmur , moviemano30 , bendflexglow , MrSeñor , kilgorek , CybeRider , itsmagic , vernuf , Swiggity Swooty , iluvapple , sostie , deviates , kls , martin , Toasted Cheese , aboyes1989 , baldwombat , No_Socks_Here , MrFurious , mordeus , hauntedknight87 , itsthatguyme , Nicks's Nose , papamihel , RedDeadFallout , nagara , darknessfish , FridayOnElmStreet , pimpinainteazy , Toy-Cannon , moviemeisters , Mr. Dacron , shadrack , ironjade , Chalice_Of_Evil , anky , weststigersbob , femalefan , SciFive , CentralScrutinizer , HumanFundRecipient , juliekohler , barkingbaphomet , rajdubeykubrick , tucotherat , Bluejay , furioustyles77 , hybridmoments713 , brownrice , crucifer , tastytomatoes , hiraganakanji , darksidebeadle , skribb , Commander_Jim , ABBEY1227 , deeznutz , dayodead , geezer , hehateshe , gunshotwound , PaulsLaugh , scienceisgod , ThatsAShocker , and 352 more...	

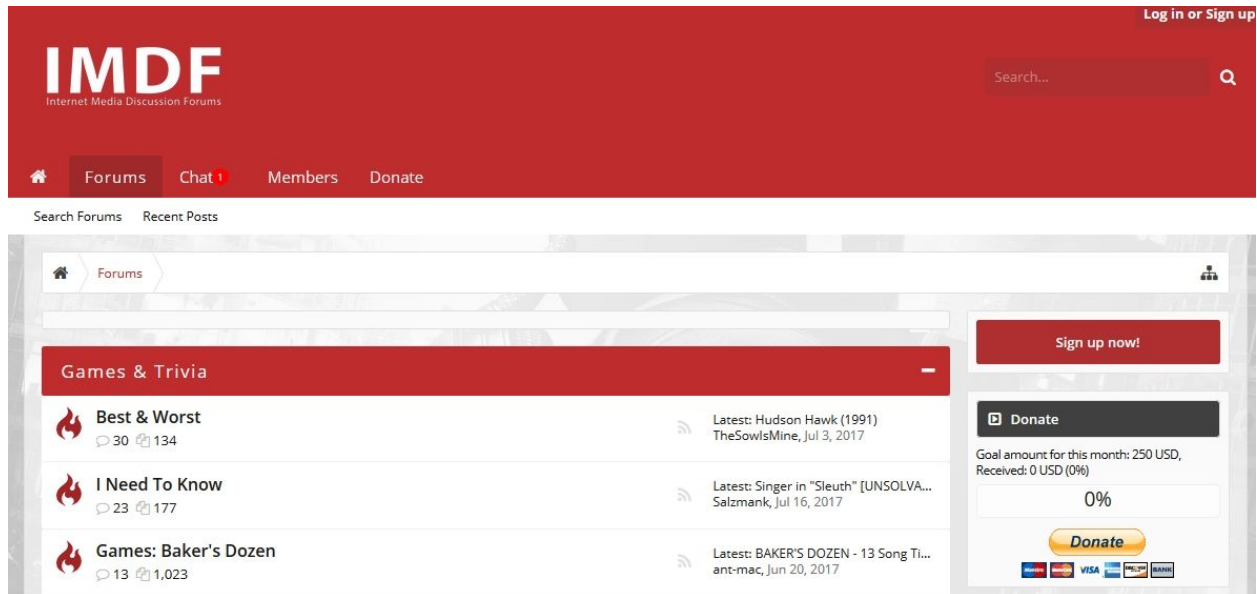
He/she bans whoever he/she likes, whenever he/she wants. Against free speech. Favors particular users. All you need to do is kiss his/her ass for weeks and then it will start fellating your dick and do your bidding. Just don't piss it off. Problem here are the users living under its tyranny. He/she is a rude dude and humiliates whomsoever he/she desires whenever.

Braggs about being an admin of a forum (cannot even afford a domain name). Biased moderation. No influx of new members. Anything fun is not allowed. Gets jealous of interesting personalities and bans them. The fault lies with the Stockholm Syndrome members who choose to stay there.

Solution: Just leave this person's tyranny and goto a better site. This thing will stalk you everywhere if you leave his/her site, and then spread lies about you.

IMDForums

<https://www.imdforums.com/>




Terrible mess. The admin tried hard to attract users. A total failure. At least he managed to buy a domain name (i am looking at you 'John Carter' of imdb2proboards)


Solution: Just kill it with fire!


OneMovieAvenue

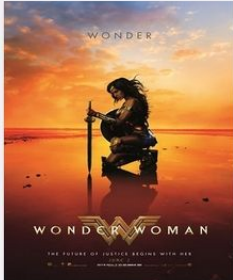
<https://onemovieavenue.com/>




MoviesSeriesNewsPeopleTV TodayForums

 Search for movies, tv shows or people...


 **NEW AND UPCOMING**




Wonder Woman




Valerian and the City of a ...




War for the Planet of the ...




Spider-Man: Homecoming

 **LATEST NEW**



Second Official Trai
Muschietti's Scary I

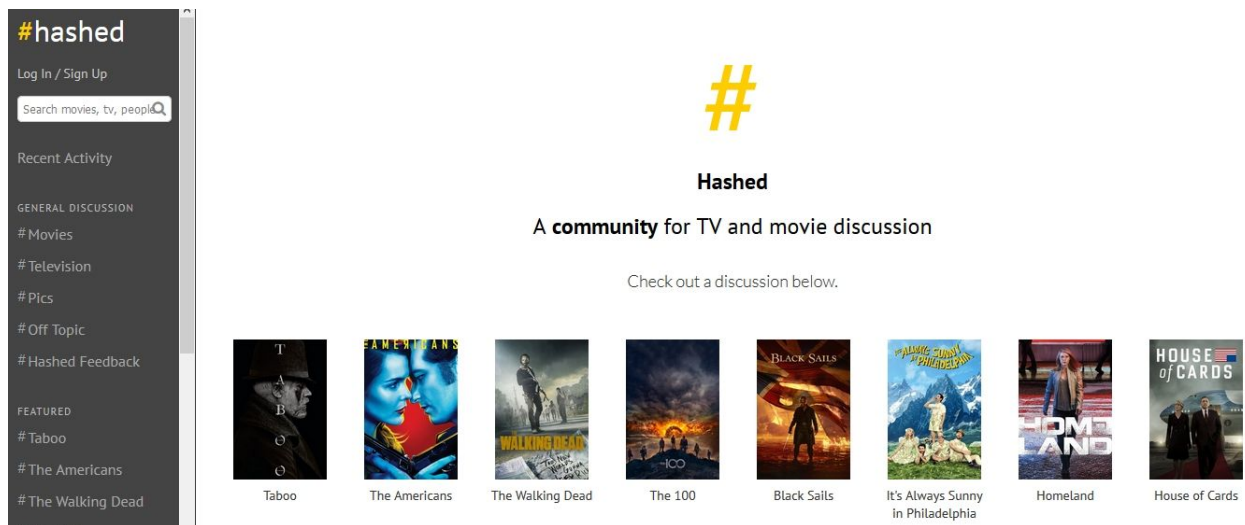


Problems? Not many users and lots of errors. It is a headache just to be able to register and post there. I have not been able to post there due to many technical problems.

Solution: Step up the game dude. Advertise it on google. Code it better.

Hashed.io

<https://hashed.io/>

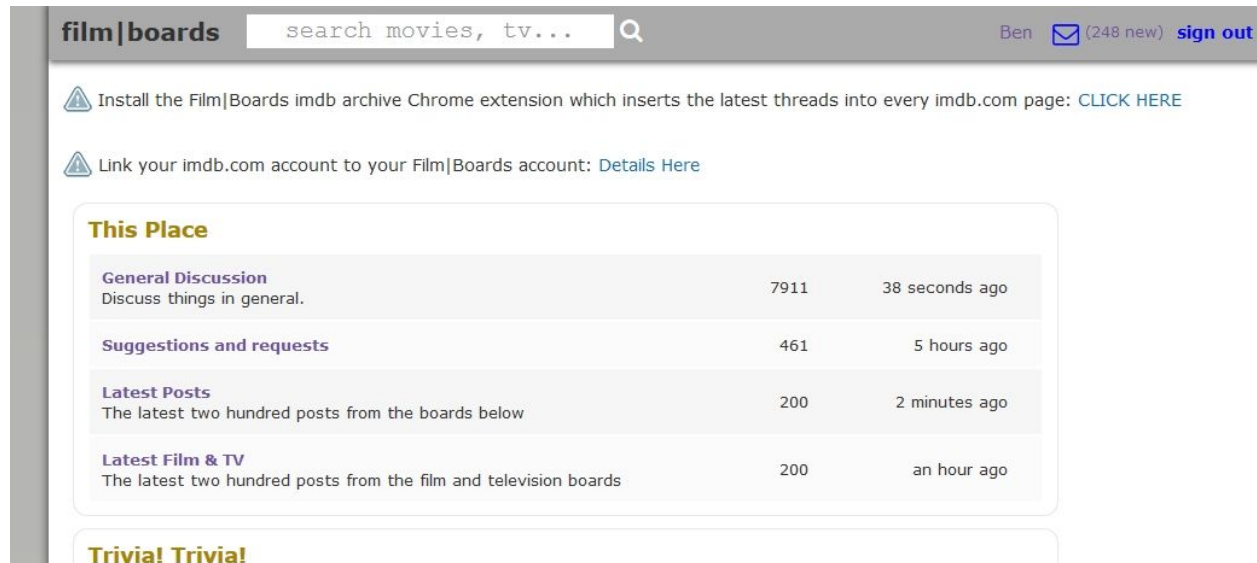


Now this is my favorite site. It is futuristic and some of its design was copied by Jim Smith of Moviechat. Its problems are lack of users. No one has even heard of this goddamn site!

Solution: Advertisement. Promotions. Also, you need to start your own database dude. Also, you need to keep updating the front page. Make it automated maybe.

IMDbarchive.com

<https://imdbarchive.com/>



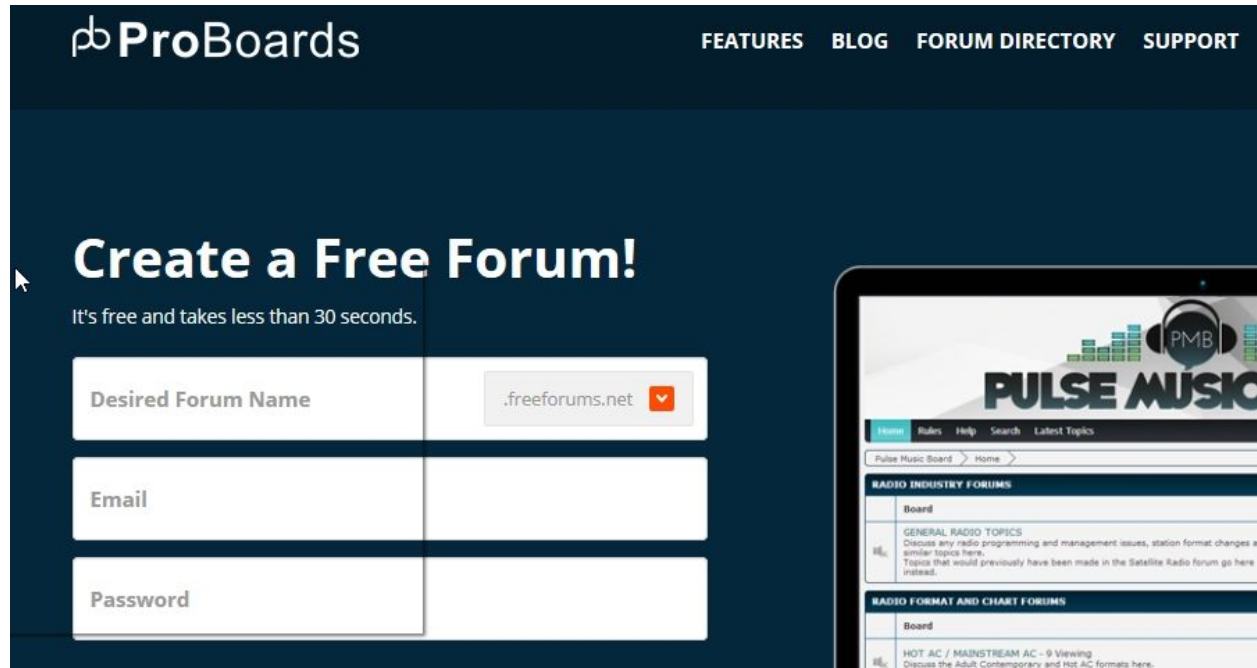
True to its name, this site is an actual replacement of IMDb forums. Even the design is almost identical to IMDb boards, with added features like posting images and youtube videos – unlike IMDb boards. Moderation is fair and so far Nimda – the admin – is doing a fair job of handling its

users. Problems may arise when or if many users infest the site, and then he might start fumbling and start moderating in a biased manner. Problems are that sites like moviechat and onemovieavenue and hashed.io have movie posters and trending sections at the very top. Movie posters and actors faces attract users to comment on them. Without images, just text aint gonna attract users.

Also, not many users there right now.

Solution: Enforce automated moderation. Add images and posters to every board and on the main page at the top. Promote it everywhere. Pay google to promote it. Try everything! Be like Jim Smith of Moviechat!

Proboards



The screenshot shows the ProBoards website interface. At the top, the ProBoards logo is on the left, and navigation links for FEATURES, BLOG, FORUM DIRECTORY, and SUPPORT are on the right. The main heading is 'Create a Free Forum!' with a subtext 'It's free and takes less than 30 seconds.' Below this is a registration form with three rows: 'Desired Forum Name' with a dropdown menu showing '.freeforums.net' and a checkmark icon; 'Email' with an empty input field; and 'Password' with an empty input field. To the right of the form is a tablet displaying a forum page titled 'PULSE MUSIC'. The forum page has a header with 'Home', 'Rules', 'Help', 'Search', and 'Latest Topics'. Below the header, there are sections for 'RADIO INDUSTRY FORUMS' and 'RADIO FORMAT AND CHART FORUMS', each with a 'Board' link and a list of topics.

These are very shitty forums that allow users to create their own messageboards for free. Problems? A very PC nerdy fat balding geek operates this site, and the desire for pussy has made this guy enforce so many posting rules that there won't be ever any SomethingAwful or stormfront type forum based on proboards.

Facts

Internet Messageboards are a dying breed. The future of internet looks very PC and the good old days of the Internet are gone. Everything is moderated. Even sites like 4chan and its competitors are about to get banned from the internets forever for their controversial content.

Everything is moderated. You are not allowed to post on the internet without revealing your personal information. You will get arrested if you say anything that your government doesn't like. You will get banned on twitter for questioning celebrities and public figures. You will get banned on Facebook if you post anonymously. We have a right to post anonymously. It is in the law!

Anonymity

Many people don't want the things they say online to be connected with their offline identities. They may be concerned about political or economic retribution, harassment, or even threats to their lives. Whistleblowers report news that companies and governments would prefer to suppress; human rights workers struggle against repressive governments; parents try to create a safe way for children to explore; victims of domestic violence attempt to rebuild their lives where abusers cannot follow.

Instead of using their true names to communicate, these people choose to speak using pseudonyms (assumed names)

or anonymously (no name at all). For these individuals and the organizations that support them, secure anonymity is critical. It may literally save lives.

Anonymous communications have an important place in our political and social discourse. The Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that the right to anonymous free speech is protected by the First Amendment. A frequently cited 1995 Supreme Court ruling in *McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission* reads:

Anonymity is a shield from the tyranny of the majority. . . . It thus exemplifies the purpose behind the Bill of Rights and of the First Amendment in particular: to protect

unpopular individuals from retaliation . . . at the hand of an intolerant society.

The tradition of anonymous speech is older than the United States. Founders Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote the Federalist Papers under the pseudonym "Publius " and "the Federal Farmer" spoke up in rebuttal. The US Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized rights to speak anonymously derived from the First Amendment.

The right to anonymous speech is also protected well beyond the printed page. Thus in 2002 the Supreme Court struck down a law requiring proselytizers to register their true names with the Mayor's office before going door-to-door.

These long-standing rights to anonymity and the protections it affords are critically important for the Internet. As the Supreme Court has recognized the Internet offers a new and powerful democratic forum in which anyone can become a "pamphleteer" or "a town crier with a voice that resonates farther than it could from any soapbox."

The Electronic Frontier Foundation has been involved in the fight to protect the rights of anonymous speakers online. As one court observed in a case handled by EFF along with the ACLU of Washington, "[T]he free exchange of ideas on the Internet is driven in large part by the ability of Internet users to communicate anonymously."

We've challenged many efforts to impede anonymous communication both in the courts or the legislatures. We also previously provided financial support to the developers of [Tor](#), an anonymous Internet communications system. By combining legal and policy work with technical tools we hope to maintain the Internet's ability to serve as a vehicle for free expression.

**Why IMDb should
rethink the decision
to close its message
boards**

Removal of key platform could lead to loss of discussion within film community and make site irrelevant



Col Needham, the founder of IMDb, said the message board no longer provided a ‘positive, useful experience’. Photograph: SWNS

Earlier this month, if you visited the IMDb message boards to hash out your feelings

on La La Land or to work through your post-Manchester By the Sea despondency, you might have spotted an announcement found at the top of each thread: [the message boards are shutting down for good](#).

“In an effort to continually evaluate and enhance the customer experience on IMDb,” the [announcement](#) stated, “we have decided to disable IMDb’s message boards on 20 February 2017.” Citing data and traffic and the boards no longer providing a “positive, useful experience” as reasons, the site’s CEO Col Needham later [took to the boards](#) to address the finer points of the shutdown, while confirming that all the content posted to the boards will be removed. “Message boards are always temporary in nature,” he wrote. He

encouraged users to copy and archive content, if they want to preserve it.

While IMDb's message boards have never been a paragon of challenging critical discourse, they have offered an accessible platform through which to have fun talking about cinema. They represented a lively and often bellicose online community that for many will be missed. [Film blogger](#) and cinema studies master's student Caroline Madden has been an active member of the boards for 11 years, first using them as a teenager when she didn't have friends who shared her passion for film.



Meet the most powerful Brit in Hollywood: Col Needham, creator of IMDb

“I made friends on the message boards over my favorite film and actor at the time, *Moulin Rouge* and [Ewan McGregor](#). We would trade fan-fiction ideas, our favourite parts of the film and generally fangirl about Ewan McGregor.”

Like many others, Madden has made a habit of checking the boards after viewing

a film, reading up on the fan theories and narrative deconstructions. “With IMDb, the conversation is abundant and accessible. Now that the message boards are ending, I don’t have an outlet to discuss film in-depth.”

Emma Thorpe is a social media administrator who regularly checks in with the boards for a particular film after viewing it. Once the boards have been disbanded, Thorpe wonders whether she’ll have a reason to use the site at all; citing IMDb’s [insistence](#) that conversations will, and already have, migrated to social media as disingenuous. “It won’t work. Comments will get lost in the noise.” Echoing others, Thorpe added: “There is a definite sense of community on the boards.

You won't be able to use the site in the same way."

Some outlets claim that IMDb's assertion that the site no longer provides a "positive, useful experience" refers to those trolling the boards. US entertainment website [the Wrap](#) highlighted the recent example of Raoul Peck's Oscar-nominated documentary [I Am Not Your Negro](#) being hit with a slew of negative and one-star reviews before its official release date as a tipping point. And you don't have to wade far into the films' [boards](#) to find them riddled with racist, ignorant and posturingly obtuse comments.

"IMDb say that the boards have been overtaken by trolls, but they could easily

make it harder for people to troll, by hindering them creating multiple accounts.” Dan L began an [online petition](#) to save the boards, currently at just under 10,000 signatures. He suspects the invocation of trolls is little more than a smokescreen. He believes the real reason is a combination of much lower user numbers than IMDb is publicising, and the way in which the boards and ratings are being exploited.

“They make bold claims such as 250 million monthly users worldwide. If IMDb really had 250 million users how come the movie with the most ratings, Shawshank Redemption, only has 1.7m votes? I don’t see how they can have 3.3% of the world’s population regularly using the site.”

There is also the issue of user ratings and boards being exploited to make a film seem as if it was more warmly received than it might have been, via ratings from false accounts. Dan uses the 2016 film [Beta Test](#) as an example of a fraudulently rated film in which half of the film's apparent viewers have rated it a 9 or a 10, though the "top voters" (those with accounted for and regularly active accounts) have only rated it an average of 4.6.

"The message boards have become a liability in terms of their credibility, and this might lead to less companies wanting to advertise with them."

One of the more disappointing aspects of the boards' closure, he believes, is the lack of consultation of IMDb's users, especially as the website relies so heavily on them providing the trivia and information.

A regular participator in the IMDb community, Dan even met his current partner via the boards, moving from Sweden to Scotland to live with her. "The message boards were at one point the only social outlet I had," he says. "And it's a bit of a slap in the face."

The sad death of the internet message board

A lament for online forums (featuring equally lamentable screenshots), as IMDb shuts down its message boards.

I was probably one of the first people to discover that IMDb's message boards were shutting down. Last week I was browsing the forums for 2015's *Straight Outta Compton* ("Zootopia is more Oscar worthy" by SpongeBob1945) when I noticed the big, red word "IMPORTANT" had just appeared atop of a thread I had opened.

"As part of our ongoing effort to continually evaluate and enhance the customer experience on IMDb, we have

decided to disable IMDb's message boards on February 20, 2017,” the message read. “After in-depth discussion and examination, we have concluded that IMDb's message boards are no longer providing a positive, useful experience for the vast majority of our more than 250 million monthly users worldwide.”

You what?

I’m not sure who IMDb had these discussions with, but it clearly wasn’t the [actor Matt Lucas](#), nor the film writer [Scott Weinberg](#), nor the 3,721 people who [signed a petition](#) asking it to reverse the decision. They also – and I can forgive the oversight – didn’t ask me, but I am gutted by the move. After looking through my five-year

history to see how dismal my ratings are (*Goodfellas* and *Calendar Girls* get ten stars, while *The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea* scores higher than *The Great Gatsby*), checking IMDb's message boards is my favourite thing to do on the site. And I'm not alone.

The Godfather (1972) : Would the Godfather have shut down the

...

View: [thread](#) | [flat](#) | [inline](#) | [nest](#)

Would the Godfather have shut down the message boards

 by **lonnieanixt** » 4 days ago (Sat Feb 4 2017 12:40:18)
IMDb member since September 2010

Flag ▼ | Reply | 

...or because their interest didn't conflict with his, leave them alone.

Michael would have kept them up, but monitored them to make sure everybody was still loyal

Sonny would have beaten up the Trolls

Recent posts on The Godfather (1972) message board

“Although many facts on films are in the IMDb entries, the message board was where you went for small weird questions. ‘What’s the exact piece of music playing in the scene where...’ or What’s the book

poking out of his pocket?”,” says Moira Redmond, a 61-year-old who has looked up every film she has seen in the last 16 years on IMDb. “Someone will always answer, and I don’t know where else you’ll get that.”

Redmond calls IMDb’s message boards “ten times as useful and interesting” as professional film reviews, and says she is “absolutely devastated” that she will no longer have access to the diverse range of views that they offer. In 2000, she worked as a comment editor for *Slate* and was told by their film reviewer to delete negative reader comments. “I think this was what first sparked my interest, because while I often agreed with [the reviewer], equally often the readers would say something that

either a) I had thought but not seen in any reviews or b) just picked up on some aspect that wasn't usual in reviews.”

I'd like to add that – whether intentionally or not – they are also often very funny.

Message Boards	
Recent Posts	
Anyone notice the pedifile father?	squeekyfish
Probably My Favourite Movie	QueenKay
Hooray for Racist Stereotypes	Brainbow8
What's up with the deaf kid???	jac_denuels
a whole bunch of questions.	nelly_fantasia
stunt double	happygirlisdabomb

The message boards for Bratz (2007)

But it's not just IMDb that will be missed. Over the last decade, internet message boards have slowly been dying out and it's not hard to guess why (when in

doubt: blame Facebook and Twitter). Even forums which still have millions of active users are in trouble, as the controversial imageboard [4Chan](#) [announced in October](#) that it was under financial strain. Social media giants have invaded forums' space, at once allowing people a place to share all of their opinions at once, and providing advertisers with mind-bogglingly intricate models by which to make money.

Yet it is precisely what makes message boards so unviable financially that makes them such a great user experience (regardless of the trolls). Both anonymity and the way forums are structured (from oldest to newest posts) create an egalitarian space. Although the hugely successful social network Reddit is

arguably a message board, its system of “Upvotes” and “Downvotes” mean certain comments are given precedence. Yes, it could be frustrating when forums became a mess of cyclical arguments and irrelevant ramblings due to their structure, but there was always the sense that everyone had their chance to be seen and heard.

Shrek (2001) : I Felt Sorry for the Snake and Frog

View: [thread](#) | [flat](#) | [inline](#) | [nest](#)

I Felt Sorry for the Snake and Frog

 by **susan mj** » Thu Mar 20 2014 16:15:47
IMDb member since September 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | OO

I felt sorry for the frog and the snake that Shrek and Fiona turned into balloons and then just let them go without untying them, lol.

A thread on the message boards for Shrek (2001)

When I ask people who used message boards in the past what they liked about them, one theme recurs: friendship.

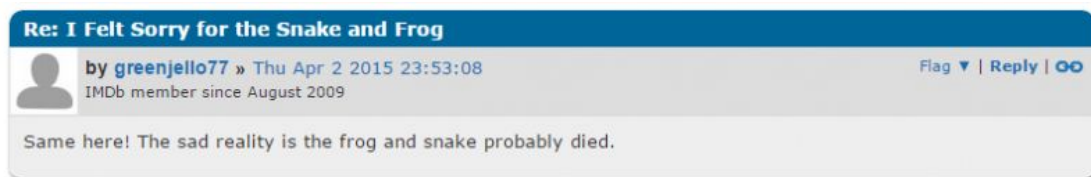
“I don't talk to anyone from the board anymore but am Facebook friends with them,” says Pippa Lowthorpe, a 22-year-old who used to frequent Jrock Revolution, a forum about Japanese music. “I was a massive nerd and it was really nice to have this niche interest turn into so many friends.”

Sometimes, these friendships could be life-changing. James, a 26-year-old who used Pokémon role-playing forums between the ages of 11 and 15 says online friendships kept him going “through a particularly rough time”.

“I was getting bullied at school,” he says. “Message boards helped me during a pretty grim moment – it's hard to overstate

how much knowing there would be people to talk to helped after spending all day in a place I wasn't liked.”

These friendships were so much stronger because they formed over niche – often very, very niche – interests. Rich Cooper, a 26-year-old who used to run a message board about former Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist John Frusciante, also still has friends from his forum days on Facebook. “I made some genuine friends there, people I'd talk to on MSN most days,” he says. “I don't talk to them anymore, but I still know what they're up to, which is weird but nice.”



As above

There is another reason to love message boards, though it might be as niche as the FruscianteFans forum. The internet often feels so ephemeral, with things frequently getting lost in the ether. Message boards are a perfect archive – it's much easier to see how things played out in real time than it is by looking through old tweets or Facebook statuses. It is also easy to find old views and opinions easily, so much so that I was shocked, last year, when I discovered my old posts on a pro-anorexia forum.

From [IMDb's statement](#), it appears that not only will it shut the message boards, it will also delete all traces of them. This seems like a tragic loss. The opinions of 250 million people on films, TV, and games are

an incredible historical and cultural archive. Even if some of them do think *Zootopia* is better than *Straight Outta Compton*.